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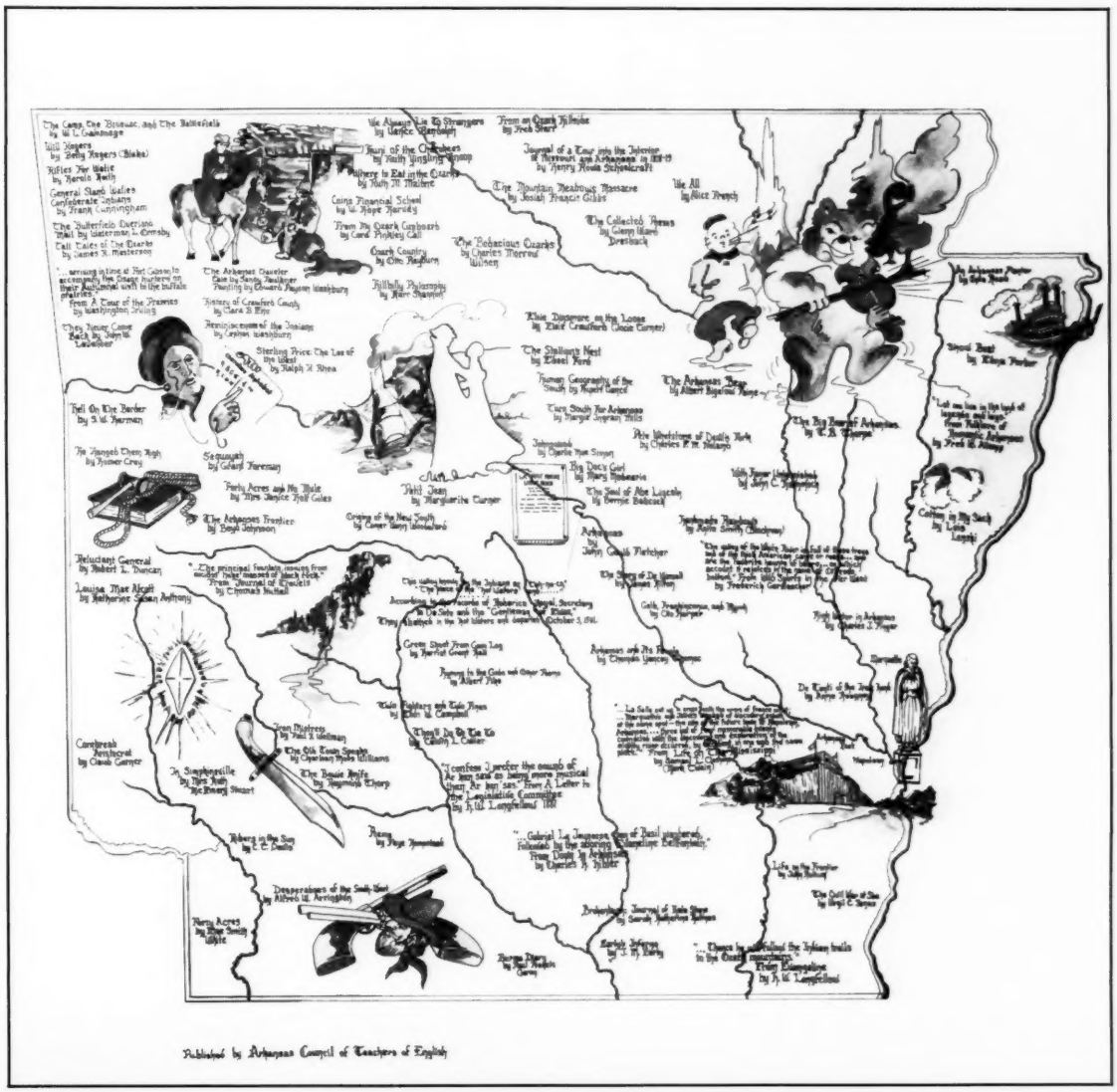

'Language of the Land'

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN
Vol. 52, No. 18
October 4, 1993

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: This literary map of Arkansas was completed in 1967, long before the state's man from Hope, Bill Clinton, became a household name.

Cover Story: "Language of the Land," a new exhibition, celebrates writers and the places where they were born, that they wrote about and that they became associated with. Using literary maps and other artifacts, visitors are taken on a "journey" of America's literary heritage. 368

Half a Century: The Library's Exchange and Gift Division, which just celebrated its 50th anniversary, shows that it's better to give as well as receive. 383

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Give and Take:
Exchange and Gift Division Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The music of Johannes Brahms and George and Ira Gershwin, Alexander Graham Bell's papers, Lessing Rosenwald's collection of rare books, and the writings of Nichiren, an influential 13th century Buddhist philosopher; these are just a few of the unique items the Library of Congress has acquired through its Exchange and Gift division (E&G), which was established on June 30, 1943.

Speaking at an anniversary luncheon held in the Mumford Room on Sept. 13, Donald Panzera, E&G division chief, recognized the accomplishments of the staff – past and present – who contributed substantially to the division's success in building the Library's rich collections.

Suzanne Thorin, the Library's chief of staff, hailed the ninth Librarian of Congress, Archibald MacLeish, for his "wisdom and foresight" in creating a valuable unit within the Library whose mission and value have remained strong and virtually unchanged through the years. Ms. Thorin explained that MacLeish's General Order 1188 still accurately describes Exchange and Gift's responsibilities: to serve "as the Library's central clearinghouse for placing requests and receiving materials through exchange, gift, transfer and deposit."

These materials include government documents, books, serials, manuscripts, microforms, maps, posters prints, photographs, magnetic and videotapes and digitized information.

Later, Ms. Thorin quoted MacLeish again to explain the important role E&G plays in building the Library's collections. "The Library of Congress no longer waits for dealers to offer books, or for collectors to give them or for publishers to deposit them for copyright. The Library now takes active and affirmative steps of its own . . . to find out what it lacks and to secure what it needs."

Enjoying the festivities were (from left): Peter Bridge, former assistant chief of Exchange and Gift; Suzanne Thorin, chief of staff; Judy McDermott, Overseas Operations Division chief; and Donald Panzera, current E&G chief. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Collections Services, hailed the division for its "cultural diversity," a reference to the staff's ability to communicate with the Library's exchange partners in 27 different languages, including Portuguese, Chinese, Czech, Byelorussian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Tagalog, Finnish and Ukrainian.

He also cited the division for producing the Library's second oldest publication, the *Monthly Checklist of Publications*. Introduced in 1910, the *Checklist* is a unique bibliography of the publications of the states and U.S. territories. "Since the *Checklist's* inception, some 36 states have, by legislation, designated the Library of Congress their depository library," Mr. Tabb said. "It is one of the top 20 sales items in the inventory of the Government Printing Office."

The division also carries out a unique form of international humanitarian assistance to libraries worldwide. The division sent shipments of books and other materials to earthquake-devastated Mexico City in 1985, to Leningrad/St. Petersburg after its 1986 fire and to the Central University Library in Bucharest, Romania, after the Ceauşescu dictatorship was overthrown in 1989. More recently, after Hurricane Andrew and the floods in the Midwest, Florida, Louisiana and other states also received shipments of books and other materials from E&G.

The division has also contributed to the Library's preservation programs, Mr. Tabb explained, by "parlaying surplus and duplicate transfer materials into funds to support photoreproduction of our many brittle collections."

Mary Price, who has served as the division's director of acquisitions for four years, praised the E&G staff for

its increases in productivity through the decades. Although the personnel has grown 2½ times its original size (from 28 in 1943 to 72 today), the division handles 11 times more material—13.4 million pieces per year.

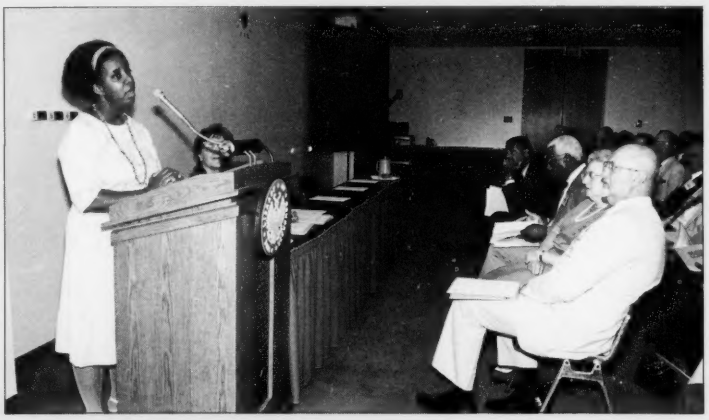
Ms. Price briefly described E&G's use of emerging technology to communicate with other libraries. The division is experimenting with Internet, the huge international computer communications network, to distribute exchange lists to the Library's exchange partners and will soon use OCLC as a source of cataloging copy.

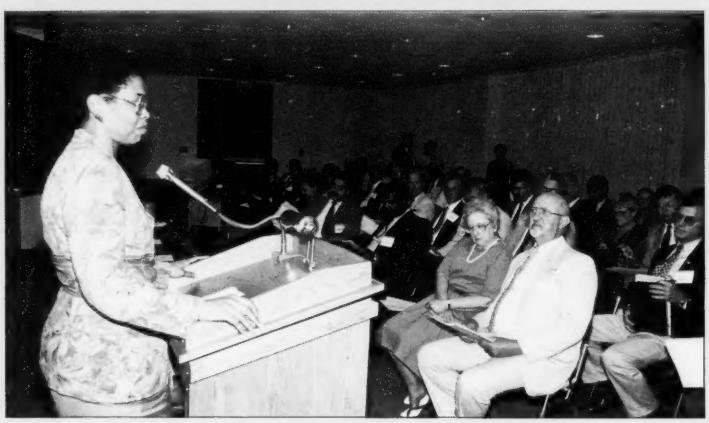
"My appreciation for the importance of nonpurchase acquisitions to the Library has grown immensely," Ms. Price said. "Not only must you have the usual acquisition skills—plus familiarity with the activities of other federal agencies and extensive knowledge about particular countries and cultures—but you must be extraordinary diplomats as well. The Library's successful Exchange and Gift programs have depended upon the kind of tactful and diplomatic attention to the needs of our partners, agents and donors that have become one of the trademarks of E&G during the past 50 years."

Judy McDermott, chief of the Overseas Operations Division and former chief of E&G, delivered a hilarious parody of the Gettysburg Address: "Two score and 10 years ago, our managers brought forth in this Library a new division, conceived in the spirit of international cooperation and dedicated to the proposition that important research material can be acquired through nonpurchase means."

"We here highly resolve," she concluded, "that these materials shall not have been acquired in vain, that this division, under Don, shall have a new birth of business process improvement and that research collections of the customers, by the customers and for the customers shall not perish from the Library."

—Barbara Bryant





Debra Newman Ham (top), a specialist in the Manuscript Division and author of a new resource guide on LC's African American collections, and Carolyn Brown, associate librarian for Cultural Affairs, addressed educators on July 16. *Photos by Jim Higgins*

Learning About the Library

On July 16, 52 educators from throughout the United States and Canada attended a briefing at the Library on LC's activities in technology (American Memory and Internet) and publishing (the soon-to-be-published *African American Mosaic* resource guide to Library collections). They also learned about LC services for educators, such as the Tracer Bullets bibliographies on current topics, and teachers' packets. The Library's Office of Educational Programs arranged the special briefing.

The educators are presidents-elect of state affiliates of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). They were in Washington attending a leadership conference sponsored by NASSP during which they discussed key issues in education reform with government officials.

Food for Thought:
Washington Post *Restaurant Critic Speaks at LC*

Restaurant critic Phyllis C. Richman recently told a Library of Congress audience something that librarians all over know already: Something isn't necessarily true just because it appears in print.

"We can't be sure what a restaurant means by 'light' or 'diet' dishes on its menu," she said. "And I distrust some cookbooks that claim to offer light recipes, which turn out to be high in fat and sugar."

Ms. Richman, restaurant critic for *The Washington Post*, spoke at the invitation of the Library of Congress Professional Association's Cooking Club, an organization of employees who like to prepare and eat good food and talk about it. The club raises money for charity and recently contributed $3,000 to local organizations that provide food relief.

A large audience gathered on Aug. 26 in the Library's Mumford Room to hear Ms. Richman talk about trends. Asked about White House influence on food trends, she responded that it probably was toward Southern cooking.

"But modest," she added, "given what's going on now. In the White House they're eating lighter, healthier food, but they're not starting a trend. The trend's already here.

"Almost everywhere people are acknowledging health awareness and lightening up their diets, paying attention to fat content," she continued. "But some seem to think that ordering a salad and a skinless chicken breast grilled with all fat removed gives them permission to consume a triple chocolate dessert.

"Restaurants are lightening up, too, both in food content and prices. Today you can order just appetizers or a super salad instead of an entree and no one will scorn you."

Many restaurants are offering different sized portions or half portions, particularly of pasta, she said; if the menu doesn't say, ask.

Phyllis Richman: "Some seem to think that ordering a salad and a chicken breast grilled with all the fat removed gives them permission to consume a triple chocolate dessert."

"I always ask if they have half portions of pasta, and if they recognize me, they do," she said.

The other major trend she cited is that "Americans are becoming consumers rather than preparers of food."

Not only do they consume more and more meals in restaurants, but when they eat at home the food is likely to be from a carry-out or brought home from the grocery at least partially pre-prepared, she said.

She advised members of her audience to help restaurants do better jobs:

☐ Support good restaurants rather than abandoning them every time a new one opens.

☐ Ask questions about food, ingredients and methods of preparation.

☐ Express satisfaction and say what's good about the food and service.

☐ Make complaints when you feel they're justified, but do so in a rational manner and try to explain precisely what is wrong.

☐ "Be opinionated and act on your opinions," she said.

Ms. Richman, whose presentation often was humorous, gave what she said is her standard reply to a question as to her own favorite restaurant:

"I always ask, 'How many children do you have?' and get a response of, perhaps, three. Then I ask, 'Which is your favorite?'

"Now and then someone answers, 'The middle one, of course.'"

She also tried to sidestep a question on her favorite meal.

"Hanukkah, I would have to say," she responded after a thoughtful moment. "My sister's potato pancakes are out of this world."

Ms. Richman's columns appear on Fridays and Sundays in *The Washington Post* and are must reading for food fanciers. She also produces fall and spring dining guides and does occasional special features. She is the author or coauthor of six books.

The food critic told her audience she eats in restaurants six or seven times a week when she is working on the dining guides and three or four times the rest of the year.

Her fall dining guide appeared in *The Post's* Sept. 19 edition to enthusiasm from readers who appreciate her views. In the guide, she repeats what she told her LC audience, that Washington became the hottest restaurant town in America in the summer of 1993; then she offered 50 reasons why.

And she isn't hesitant about trying new and unusual foods: radicchio, slugs and the like.

But, she admits, she isn't too fond of cole slaw.

—Jeanne Smith

News from the Center for the Book:

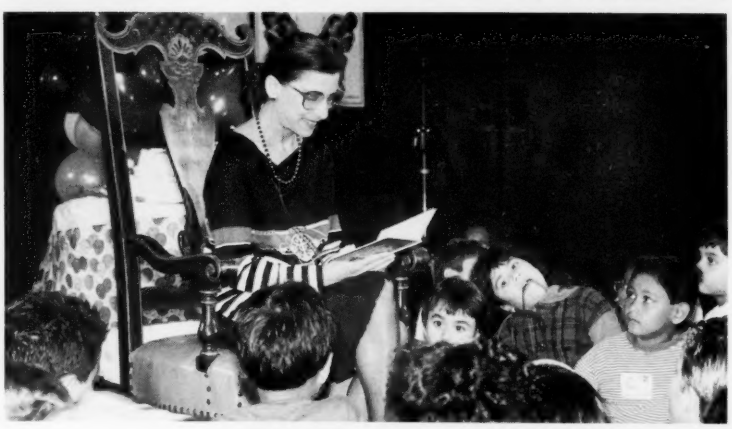
Political and Media Celebrities 'Read Aloud' at LC

Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Sens. Carol Moseley-Braun and Paul Simon, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of Education Richard Riley, television correspondents Cokie Roberts and Robert MacNeil, and actor Richard Thomas read from their favorite childhood books to an enthusiastic audience of Washington, D.C., schoolchildren at a Sept. 8, program at the Library.

The festive event, sponsored by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and the Center for the Book, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the PBS series "Reading Rainbow" and marked International Literacy Day. John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, welcomed the visitors to the balloon-filled Mumford Room and reminded everyone that "Books Change Lives" is the Library's reading promotion theme for 1993–94.

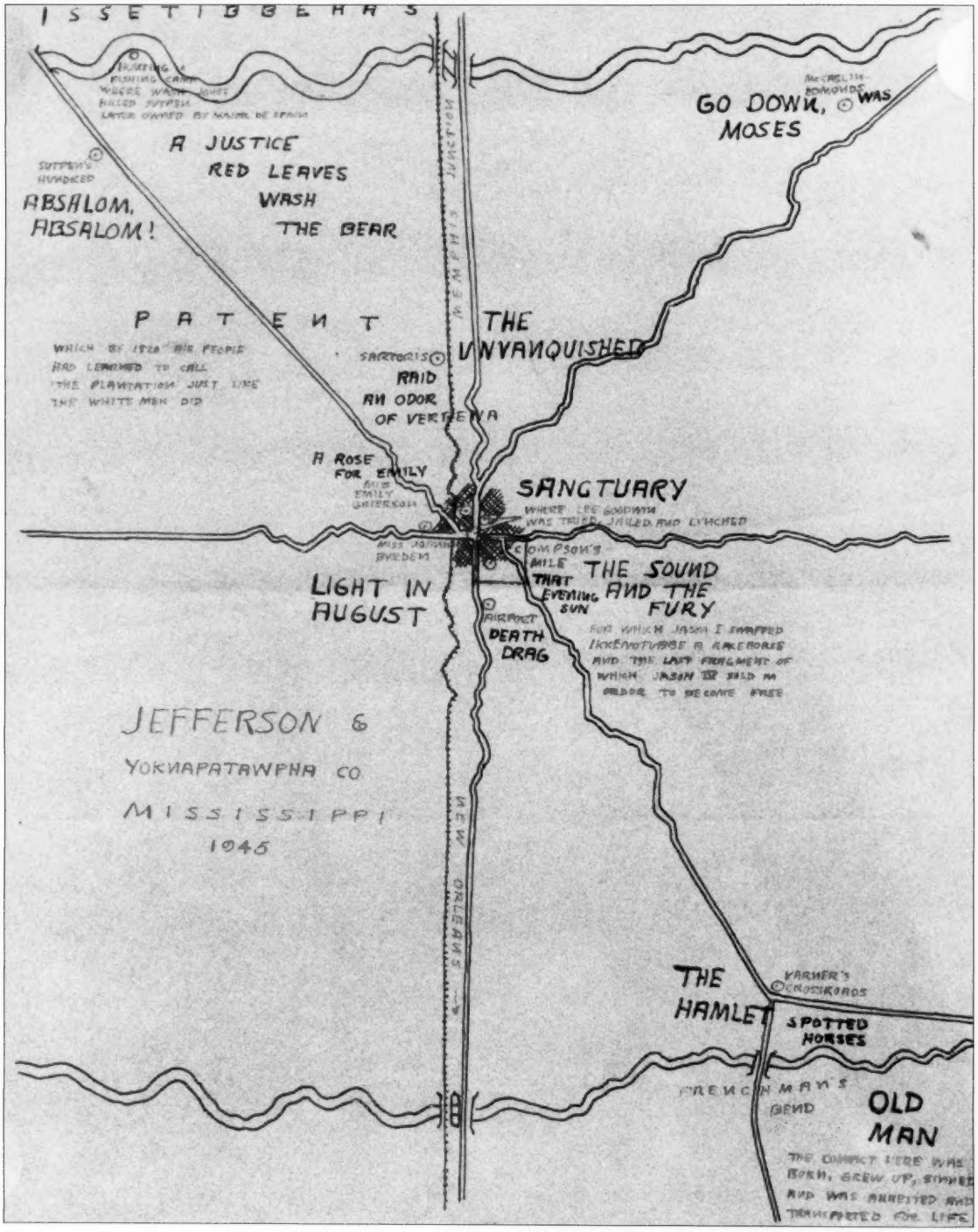
Dr. Cole also introduced the master of ceremonies for the day, LaVar Burton, the host of "Reading Rainbow." The young audience enjoyed listening and quizzing the celebrity readers about the books they chose, which included *The Wind in the Willows, Berlioz the Bear, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Story of Ferdinand, Grandfather Twilight, The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Sneetches.*

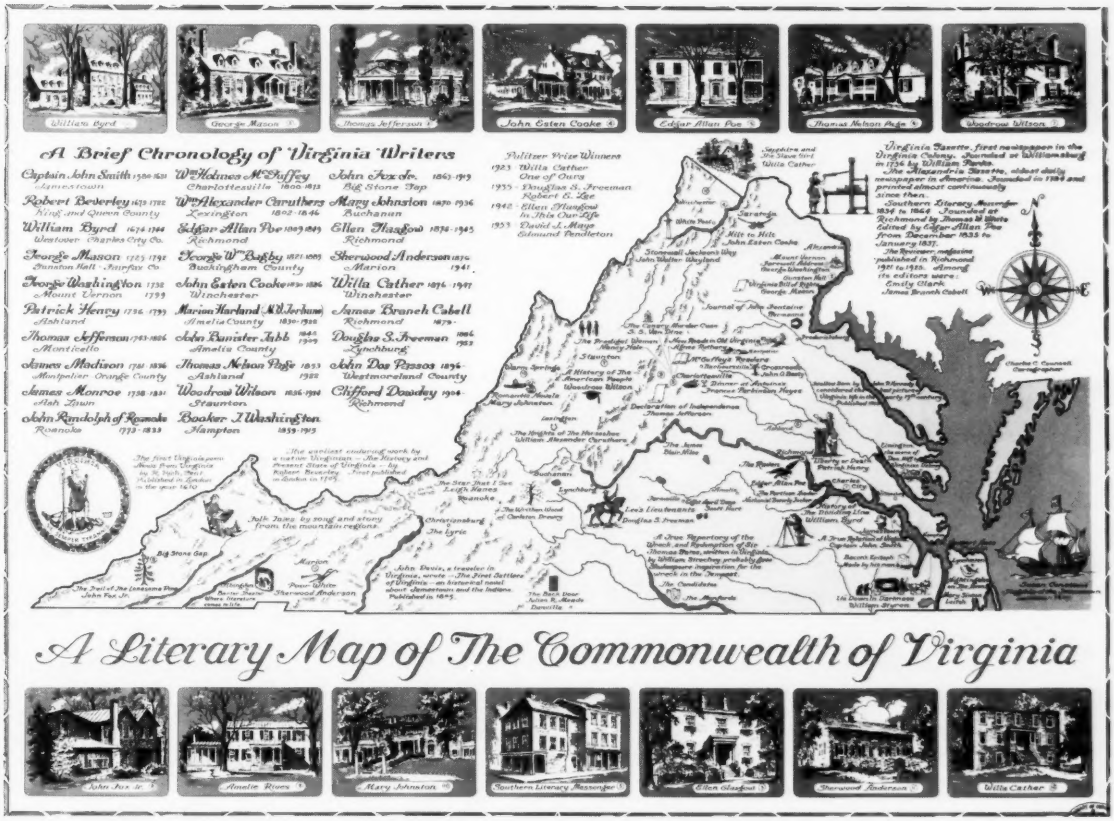
"Reading Rainbow" is a member of the Center for the Book's national reading promotion partnership program.



Attorney General Janet Reno (from top) delighted the audience with her favorite children's book during the Sept. 8 "Reading Rainbow"; Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also read to the children; acting Deputy Librarian of Congress Daniel Mulhollan takes a break with Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun.

Sen. Paul Simon (clockwise from top left) read to the enjoyment of John Cole, LaVar Burton and WETA-TV founder Elizabeth Campbell as much as for the children; reporter Cokie Roberts read a personal favorite; news anchor Robert MacNeil shared his most admired story; Education Secretary Richard Riley holds open the book he read from; and actor Richard Thomas also played a role. *Photos by Yusef El-Amin*


ISSETIBBEHA'S
GO DOWN, MOSES
A JUSTICE
RED LEAVES
WASH
THE BEAR
ABSALOM, ABSALOM!
P A T E N T
THE UNVANQUISHED
RAID
AN ODOR OF VERBENA
A ROSE FOR EMILY
SANCTUARY
LIGHT IN AUGUST
THE SOUND AND THE FURY
DEATH DRAG
JEFFERSON &
YOKNAPATAWPHA CO.
MISSISSIPPI
1945
THE HAMLET
SPOTTED HORSES
OLD MAN
FRENCH MAN'S BEND
MEMPHIS OKLAHOMA & GULF R.R.



The literary map of Virginia boasts such luminaries as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Booker T. Washington.

'Language of the Land':

Exhibition Looks at the Nation Through Literary Eyes

by Helen Dalrymple

"What interests me is the waking in the morning, the progress from the familiar to the slightly odd, to the rather strange, to the totally foreign, and finally to the outlandish. The journey, not the arrival, matters; the voyage, not the landing."

Paul Theroux (*The Old Patagonian Express: By Train Through the Americas)* is only one of many authors whose words are used throughout the exhibition "Language of the Land: Journeys into Literary America," both as a travel leitmotif and to illustrate how Americans' views of various regions of the country have been influenced and shaped by literary voices through the years.

The exhibition also includes a selection of "literary maps" from the Geography and Map Division and photographs drawn from the Prints and Photographs Division, which aid the visitor on his or her "journey" through the nation's literary landscape.

"Language of the Land" is part of the Literary Heritage of the States project of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. It was developed by the Library's Interpretive Programs Office and the Geography and Map Division.

William Faulkner drew this map of the mythical Yoknapatawpha County, based on his native Lafayette County, Miss., for the endpapers of *The Portable Faulkner*, a 1946 edition of his selected works. *Holograph map from "Language of the Land"*

Designed and mounted as a traveling exhibition, "Language of the Land" will remain on view in the foyer of the Madison Building through January 17, 1994.

The display in the Madison Building is one of two versions of the exhibition that will travel throughout the United States until 1995 under the auspices of 16 state centers for the book. Its first traveling venues are Currigan Exhibition Hall, Denver (October 1993), and the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, Pa. (November 1993).

"Language of the Land" was made possible by a generous grant to the Center for the Book from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, with additional support from the Library's James Madison Council.

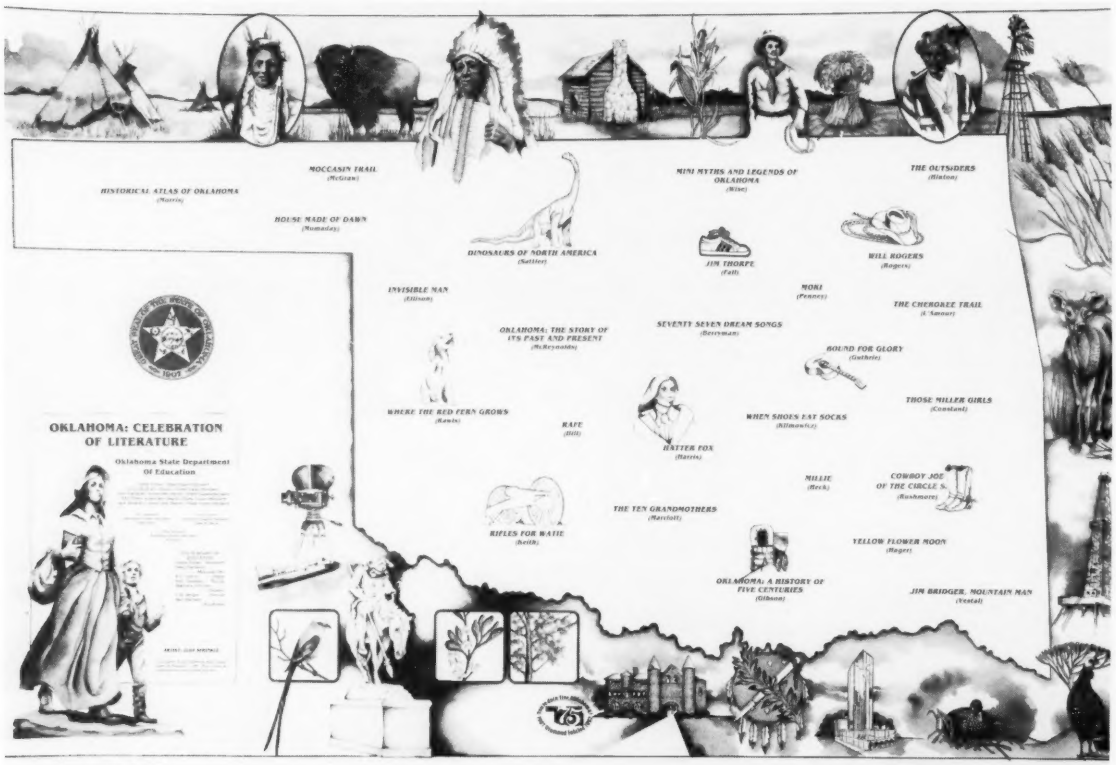
The Library's version of the exhibition includes an additional section on mythical and imaginary literary places that will not travel around the country, as well as supplementary and supporting materials from the Library's collections, such as first editions from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and manuscripts of a few literary masterpieces from the Manuscript Division.

Inspiration for the exhibition came from Ralph Ehrenberg, chief of the Geography and Map Division. "A number of the very colorful Aaron Blake maps had come into the division through copyright, and I remembered that there were other literary maps already in the collections. I thought they might make an interesting exhibition at some point," he said.

The idea grew from there. Michael Buscher, head of collections maintenance for the Geography and Map Division, took on the task of locating other literary maps in the division's collections, which was not as simple as it might appear.

"We don't have a catalog of pre-1969 maps," said Mr. Buscher, "so it was a question of opening map drawers and checking the titles of the pictoral maps." And their titles could range from "literature" to "historical" to the name of a character in a book. They found a "Huckleberry Finn" map, for example, under the more general category of "Mississippi River."

Finding the maps became a challenge for the division, and six or seven staff members eventually got


OKLAHOMA: CELEBRATION OF LITERATURE
Oklahoma State Department Of Education
MOCCASIN TRAIL (McGinn)
HISTORICAL ATLAS OF OKLAHOMA (Morris)
HOUSE MADE OF DAWN (Momaday)
DINOSAURS OF NORTH AMERICA (Sattler)
MINI MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF OKLAHOMA (Wise)
JIM THORPE (Fall)
THE OUTSIDERS (Hinton)
WILL ROGERS (Rogers)
INVISIBLE MAN (Ellison)
MORI (Fenney)
THE CHEROKEE TRAIL (L'Amour)
OKLAHOMA: THE STORY OF ITS PAST AND PRESENT (McReynolds)
SEVENTY SEVEN DREAM SONGS (Berryman)
BOUND FOR GLORY (Guthrie)
WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS (Rawls)
RAIF (Bill)
HATTER FOX (Barrett)
WHEN SHOES EAT SOCKS (Killmouse)
THOSE MILLER GIRLS (Constant)
MILLIE (Beck)
COWBOY JOE OF THE CIRCLE S. (Bushmore)
THE TEN GRANDMOTHERS (Marriott)
RIFLES FOR WATIE (Keith)
YELLOW FLOWER MOON (Hager)
OKLAHOMA: A HISTORY OF FIVE CENTURIES (Gibson)
JIM BRIDGER, MOUNTAIN MAN (Vestal)

Oklahoma's "Celebration of Literature" features Jim Thorpe, Will Rogers and Ralph Ellison, author of *Invisible Man.*

involved in the search for the maps. Mr. Buscher estimates that they looked at some 70,000 maps over the period of a month or so and came up with about 200 that fit their definition of a "literary map."

Early in the project Mr. Ehrenberg defined a literary map as "a map that records the location and identity of geographical places and features associated with authors and their literary works . . . and serves as an explorer's guide to the imaginative world of novelists, poets, dramatists, essayists and biographers."

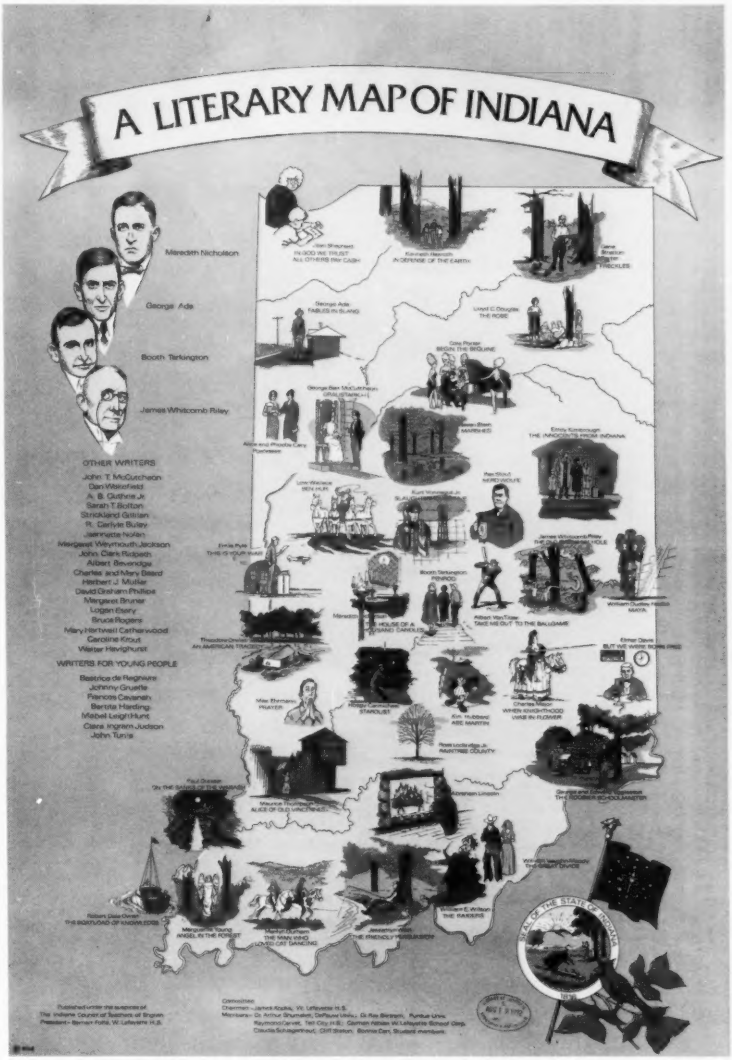
Once the maps were identified, Martha Hopkins of the Interpretive Programs Office became involved in the project as exhibit director. A former college English professor, Ms. Hopkins said it "was right up my alley." She added that she and Irene U. Burnham, head of Interpretive Programs, wanted to "make this an exhibition to showcase much of the Library's collections, which I think it does" because materials have been pulled from other divisions of the Library to supplement the literary maps.

Ms. Hopkins was able to track down additional literary maps that have now been donated to the Library and added to the permanent collections.

The 47 maps in the Library's exhibition were orginally produced for different purposes: some by state councils of English teachers; some as calendars or posters; some as advertising and still others to demonstrate the capabilities of a particular printing process.

Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Buscher worked on the exhibition for two years, drawing up lists of authors who would be appropriate, selecting relevant quotations and scouring the collections for just the right photograph to convey the landscape of a particular region of the country.

"We made a conscious effort to be inclusive with the writers," she notes, "and to select them to represent different historical time periods,



Indiana was home to Cole Porter, Booth Tarkington and James Whitcomb Riley.

ethnic groups, regions of the country, and to include both male and female authors."

Some of the writings of authors evoke the sense and scenery of one of the four regions of the country: "There was an open place where the sunshine always seemed strangely yellow and hot, where tall nodding rushes grew. . . . Not far beyond were the salt marshes and beyond those was the sea. . . . Its great voice could often be heard above the noise of the woods on stormy nights," wrote Sarah Orne Jewett in *A White Heron.*

Others, like the Theroux quote from *The Old Patagonian Express,* are used

Martha Hopkins and Michael Buscher check details of the exhibition before it opens to the public. *Photo by Helen Dalrymple*

to convey the idea of a journey and the overall grandeur of the land.

"We were interested in trying to show the ways in which writers shape our ideas of the country," Ms. Hopkins commented. She cited Mark Twain and how his books have influenced Americans' notions of the Mississippi River.

Photographs also influence how we view the country, and the ones selected for "Language of the Land" are representative, almost stereotypical, of different regions—birch trees and church steeples for New England, for example, and rolling fields for the Midwest.

Cutout figures of well-known book characters such as Scarlett O'Hara, Huck Finn, and Wilbur and Charlotte from *Charlotte's Web* add visual excitement and a lighter touch to the exhibition.

A close look at the exhibition will provide the viewer with many intriguing details.

Why are some authors claimed by so many states?

Ben Ames Williams, who wrote stories about Maine, for example, shows up on the maps of Ohio and Mississippi as well as Maine (and he may be on others).

Who are some of these authors? Many names are familiar, but many others have long been forgotten.

Visit the exhibition; see if you can find *your* favorite author. Look for William Faulkner's hand-drawn map of Yoknapatawpha County (based on his native Lafayette County, Miss.) that was used as endpapers on his book *The Portable Faulkner.*

Note that both Robert Hayden and Gwendolyn Brooks (former Library of Congress Consultants in Poetry) are included on the "Black Writers for Young America" map.

See a "fair copy" (later version written in his own hand) of Robert Frost's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening."

And look for Truman Capote's spiral notebook with the manuscript of *In Cold Blood.*

"Language of the Land" will soon take on yet another life. The Geography and Map Division, in cooperation with the Center for the Book, is planning to publish a cartobibliography, with illustrations of all the division's literary maps. It will be compiled by Michael Buscher.

And Martha Hopkins believes that the Library's exhibition may stimulate more interest in literary maps. "There are probably a lot around that we didn't find. I'd like to do some more research on my own."

CDS Ceases Sales Of Pre-MARC Cards

As of Oct. 1, the Library's Cataloging Distribution Service (CDS) stopped selling copies of catalog cards from a collection of 5 million printed before the Library began to create and store catalog records in automated MARC (machine readable catalog) format.

CDS will continue to sell 3-by-5-inch cards printed from the automated MARC data base, which consists mostly of records created since 1968.

In 1901, while printing cards for its own use, the Library began to print catalog cards for distribution to other libraries to save duplication of effort, Ms. Tarr said. Congress concurred and in 1902 allowed the Library to begin selling cards. After 1968 the Library began producing catalog cards from computerized MARC records in addition to copying earlier printed cards for distribution to libraries across the nation and private companies, which create and market data bases from Library records.

However, revenue from MARC record sales was subsidizing the high cost of creating copies of non-MARC cards. Every time a customer ordered a card for a particular non-MARC record, a card reprint clerk would have to pull the original card, affix it to a cardboard backing to be photographed, send the copy to the customer, refile the original—and then repeat the process for the next order.

The MARC system can automatically search and retrieve requested catalog records from computerized files and reproduce the information on printed 3-by-5-inch cards or in electronic formats, such as tapes, in a matter of seconds. If the material being requested is not in the data base, the system notifies the customer that the record is not available from LC.

'Numbers You Can Count On':
Dewey Decimal Classification Is Maintained at LC

Say the word "library" to a literate person and chances are one of the reminiscences it evokes will contain the word "Dewey."

As David Smith, chief of the Library's Decimal Classification Division likes to point out, much of the world associates Dewey not only with libraries but with growing up. "For many, books arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification [DDC] system, whether in a local public library or at school, represented their first organized encounter with the world of information, amazement and amusement—all in books packed onto shelves with a seeming artlessness that only in retrospect is revealed as art of the highest order," Mr. Smith said.

Even those who later ply their trade in the carrels and stacks of the many large U.S. research libraries that use the Library of Congress Classification rather than the DDC often retain an affection for the simplicity of the Dewey scheme of arrangement. But it would be a mistake to see simplicity as the main hallmark of Dewey.

"Coming to terms with Dewey is like playing the piano," Mr. Smith said. "A simple tune can be picked out with relative ease, but to 'play' the classification as a virtuoso can take a lifetime of study and practice."

Most library researchers do not realize that, although the Library of Congress does not use the Dewey Decimal Classification to organize its book holdings, virtually all maintenance and updating of the DDC is performed here.

But if the Library of Congress has its own classification system, what is it doing with Dewey?

"Providing a national and international outreach to over 200,000 libraries in 135 countries throughout the world," said Mr. Smith.

"More libraries and research centers use the Dewey Decimal Classification than the Library's own classification system," he added. Many are small or medium-sized: public, school, academic and special libraries. Most major American university and research libraries, whose holdings come closer to matching the breadth and size of the Library's collections, prefer to use the LC classification to arrange and shelve their books.

There are some exceptions. In the United States, the University of Illinois and Duke and Northwestern universities use Dewey, as do large libraries in many other countries such as India, Australia and Canada. The United Kingdom is a mainstay of Dewey usage, and countries associated historically with it have continued to organize their libraries according to the DDC.

Melvil Dewey, founder of the first library school, inventor of his own phonetic spelling scheme (the vestiges of which have "mercifully" disappeared from the DDC, says Mr. Smith), cofounder of the *Library Journal* and other journals and two-time president of the American Library Association, devised his classification in 1873 for the Amherst College Library. It was first published in 1876.

Nobuko Ohashi (from left), Julianne Beall, Joan Mitchell and Winton Matthews Jr. check a citation in the Dewey Decimal Classification. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

Today, the system is published by Forest Press, a division of the OCLC Online Library Computer Center. Forest Press provides financial support for the editorial work carried on in the Decimal Classification Division. (Such work has been centered at the Library of Congress since 1923.)

The DDC is used by division classifiers to provide Dewey numbers for items being cataloged in the major languages of interest to most Dewey-using libraries: English,

Spanish, Italian, French, German and some Chinese. Approximately two-thirds of all books cataloged by the Library are assigned Dewey numbers. These numbers are disseminated worldwide, primarily through the Library's MARC distribution services.

The notational design of DDC is deceptively simple. The fundamental arrangement in the DDC is by discipline, and then topic within discipline. A topic may appear in several places in the classification, depending on the viewpoint of the work. For example, a book on marriage may be classed in ethics, religion, sociology, law, medicine, music, etc., depending on the disciplinary focus.

All books are organized under 10 major classes (or areas of knowledge), each of which bears its own three-digit set of Arabic numerals. Religion is 200, for example; natural sciences and mathematics are grouped under 500, while literature and rhetoric fall under 800. These classes are further divided into 100 divisions and 1,000 sections, and then extended further by a decimal point and additional digits. Thus, under the main class 500, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, comes the discipline of Mathematics at 510. Calculus, an area within mathematics, is classed at 515, which is further subdivided into topics such as Differential Equations at 515.33.

This hierarchical method of classifying books allows libraries to group like works within a discipline and relate them to broader and narrower topics in the same discipline.

The classification has grown steadily since its first published version, which contained 44 pages and 926 classes. By the 20th edition, published in 1989, the publication had grown to four volumes with 3,344 pages. The 12th abridged edition was published in 1990 in one volume of 857 pages. New editions are published about every seven years; the 21st edition will be published in 1996, the 13th abridged edition in 1997. There is even an electronic version of the classification, Electronic Dewey, introduced by OCLC Forest Press in January 1993.

History. The Library of Congress considered the Dewey Decimal Classification for its collections in the late 1890s, when it became obvious that the existing system developed by Thomas Jefferson would no longer suffice. But after Mr. Dewey rejected the Library's suggested revisions to the DDC, the institution decided to develop its own classification system.

Rather than relying on the 10 main classes that form the DDC's primary structure, the Library of Congress Classification consists of 21 classes published in 48 volumes. The classes are designated by a capital letter (D–History; K–Law; N–Art; Q–Science, etc.). These are further divided into two or three letter subclasses (DC–History of France; KFG–Law of Georgia; NB–Sculpture; QK–Botany), with further arrangement by numbers to represent specific topics (DC203–Napoleon; NB1312–Equestrian Statues; QK617–Mushrooms). It has taken staffers nearly 100 years to complete the basic system.

The Dewey Decimal Classification "is not an intellectual exercise; it's a living organism that must adapt to the changing world of knowledge manifested in published works."

Approximately 5,000 new or changed class numbers are added annually. The system is enumerative: Library of Congress Classification makes explicit provision for a great number of topics.

'Where the Books Are.' Since LC neither owns nor uses DDC to classify its books, why is the division located in the heart of the Cataloging Directorate's operations?

"To be where the books are," said Joan Mitchell, the new editor of the DDC. "We're constantly reviewing and considering expansions and revisions of numbers to cover new disciplines and subject areas. As human knowledge grows, so do the types and contents of the books that are published. The only way to be aware of and assess these changes is to review the current literature. The DDC is not an intellectual exercise; it's a living organism that must adapt to the changing world of knowledge manifested in published works."

Ms. Mitchell cited numerous changes to headings to the DDC over the years, all made in response to user needs and changes in knowledge and viewpoints. For example, in response to an explosive growth of literature in computer science, a new schedule for Dataprocessing/Computer Science was devised, quickly published separately in 1985 to meet user demand, and later included in the 1989 full edition. The Music (780) schedule was revised in the 20th (most recent) edition to remove Western bias and provide for new musical forms.

Both of these developments required the introduction of new notation and the reuse of some existing numbers. Such changes are made cautiously, because changes are costly to libraries and users.

Many changes can be accommodated within the existing structure, either by expanding or contracting the notation or changing the terminology.

"Over time, much of the terminology that was once considered standard becomes outdated or even offensive," Ms. Mitchell continued. "That's why we replaced the term 'Eskimo' with more specific terms such as 'Aleut' and 'Inuit,' the names preferred by the people themselves. We're constantly updating, correcting and adding terms to reflect

changes in culture, political events and scientific and technical progress.

"We also want to introduce colloquial terms, which may vary from one country to another." She cited as an example the U.S. term "dropouts," whose British counterpart is "school leavers."

As editor of the 21st edition of DDC, Ms. Mitchell works with a team of three assistant editors and 10 classification specialists. The specialists apply numbers to records for books cataloged by the Library. The staff refers to a broad range of sources to identify and assess proposed changes to the system including specialists from other divisions in the Library. In addition to searching in-house data bases, they consult official publications and experts in appropriate fields. After conducting extensive in-house review, the division refers its suggested changes to the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee (EPC), an international advisory committee whose members are appointed by OCLC Forest Press and the American Library Association. EPC also includes a representative from the Library of Congress.

After the committee approves, rejects or requests more information about proposed changes, OCLC Forest Press has the option of accepting or rejecting their recommendations. To date, all have been accepted.

"We invite and receive much feedback from users. Responding to users' needs is a high priority," said Ms. Mitchell. "Also, the DDC's inherent flexibility allows libraries to tailor the classification to suit their needs." Libraries may apply the numbers as specifically or as broadly as their local collection requires. In fact, the Decimal Classification Division "segments" the numbers applied to bibliographic records into logical groups to aid this process.

"Such adaptability is important, especially when you're developing one basic system to serve libraries of varying sizes in different countries," said Ms. Mitchell. "Options are provided in places where the English-language standard edition arrangement may not be optimal for the local collection. For example, various options are provided to highlight the literature of a specific country at a broader number. Such options facilitate international use."

Surprisingly, the DDC isn't just for libraries anymore.

The classification is not merely a way of assigning locational numbers to books, it is a logical system that can organize any number of topics within disciplines, moving from the broad, general categories, to the most specific.

The fact that the entire classification exists in electronic form makes new uses inside and outside of libraries feasible. "One could imagine using DDC to organize knowledge bases or provide a framework for accessing information over computer networks such as the Internet," Ms. Mitchell pointed out.

In short, the Dewey Decimal classification lives up to its motto by providing "numbers you can count on." —*Barbara Bryant*

Exhibition on Italian Americans In West to Open at LC Oct. 14

A traveling exhibition on the culture and heritage of Italian Americans in the western United States will open in the Madison Gallery of the Library of Congress Madison Building on Oct. 14. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibition closes March 27, 1994.

"Old Ties, New Attachments: Italian-American Folklife in the West" was created by the Library's American Folklife Center to examine the cultural, social and economic contributions made by Italian Americans in the West. It presents a selection of photographs, artifacts, videotapes and sound recordings gathered during a field documentation project sponsored by the American Folklife Center (see LC *Information Bulletin*, Oct. 5, 1992).

Twenty-one researchers, folklorists, and fieldworkers documented Italian American communities in Gilroy, San Francisco and San Pedro, Calif.; Walla Walla, Wash.; Carbon County, Utah; Pueblo, Colo.; and central and eastern Nevada.

Fieldworkers interviewed scores of Italian American residents, recorded their songs and stories, documented their traditional architecture, rummaged through their attics, tasted their wine, visited their worksites, attended their family and community events and photographed their cherished mementos. The result is an immense archive that includes 300 hours of video and sound recordings, 25,000 photographs and thousands of pages of research materials, now part of the Archive of Folk Culture in the Library of Congress.

"Most Americans associate Italian Americans with the urban East, but in the mid-19th century, large numbers of Italian immigrants settled in California and other Western states," said Alan Jabbour, director of the American Folklife Center. "They brought with them many cultural values and skills—agricultural practices, wine production and stone masonry, to name only a few. Italian Americans helped to shape the cultural landscape of the modern West more than many people realize."

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